



Volume 21



An ARCEC Monthly Publication

- October 2012



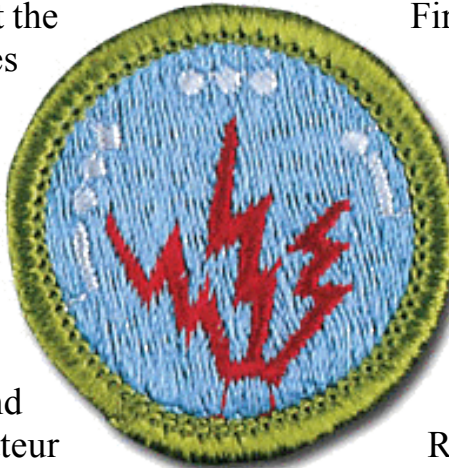
Issue 10

Counterpoise Editor - Joe Bennett KJ6VMX

Amateur Radio and the Boy Scouts of America



On September 29, 2012 the Boy Scout Merit Badge Fair at the Carlos, 6554 Cowles of the Amateur Radio participated in support of training/teaching, as and support elements station to communicate Due in part to the efforts four of the Boy Scouts Radio Merit Badges and contacts with the Amateur



Scouts of America (BSA) held a First Methodist Church in San Mountain Blvd. Members Club of El Cajon the BSA, providing well as radio equipment that provided a solid from during the Fair. of the ARCEC members, were able to obtain their were able to make many Radio community.

Continued on Page 3

ARCEC Repeater Frequencies

2 Meter Repeater	220 MHZ Repeater	440 MHZ Repeater
TX 146.475	TX 220.480	TX 440.900
RX 147.420	RX 224.080	RX 445.900
Offset .945	Offset 1.6	Offset 5.00
PL 107.2	PL 107.2	PL 107.2



Mystery of the Masthead for September

By Joe -KJ6VMX - Counterpoise Editor

A few years back, I was heavily into "Remote Control Aerial Photography". or RCAP as it is known. Some people used radio equipment on the 72 mhz frequencies, some on the 2.4 ghz frequencies, and even some on the allocated HAM frequencies of 50.80 mhz to 50.98 mhz. For many reasons I used the 2.4 ghz area for my operations. On one of the many computer forums, I sent a story regarding a FAUX vacation I took to the moon to fly my SSV2 electric powered air plane to take a few photos. The story was well received, and was a lot of fun to write and follow-up with comments on. The Masthead from last month was a photo of me in my moon suit, carrying my SSV2 aircraft. You can see the moon buggy in the background too. Got all the way to the lunar flying field when it finally struck me that flying in a vacuum might be a bit difficult. Now, see if you can figure out where this months Masthead was taken, and what it has to do with Amateur Radio. Please feel free to send me your comments at www.counterpoise@wa6bgs.us. Thanks all....



Faux Visit to the Moon with the SSV2 in Tow

A HAM Setting Up In Imperial Beach?

By Joe - KJ6VMX

Whew, finally completed the move from El Cajon to Imperial Beach. Any move is tough and this one was no different. Now for the fun of setting up my shack at a new location. Everything seems to have made the trip in good condition, just have to find it all now. First on the agenda is to set up the equipment in the house. Had to decide which room to use for the radio/computer room. Decided on a front facing bedroom to use. Still many things to do, but was able to install the 2 meter antennas and route the coax's into the new shack.



Continued on Page #4



SAN DIEGO, CA:

Store Hours:

10AM-5:30PM Mon - Sat

Telephone hours:

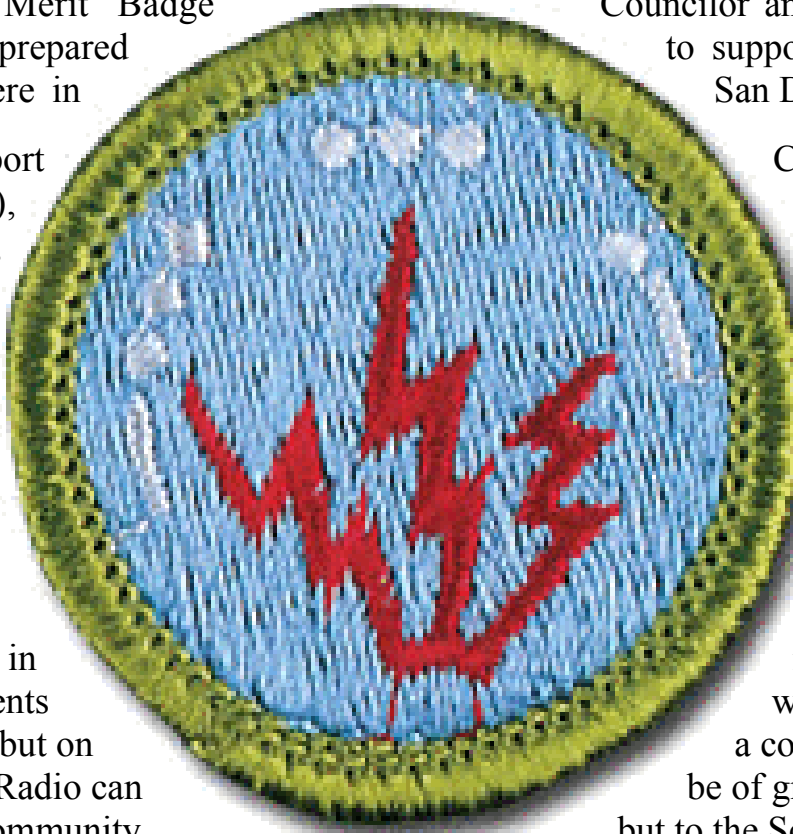
9:30AM-5:30PM Mon-Sat

858-560-4928

Continued from Page #1

Many thanks go out to club members KJ6ECY (Chuck) who is a BSA Troop Leader & KJ6BYF (Paul) our club Secretary, whose unrelenting efforts in planning, preparing, and conducting a serious radio class for the Boy Scouts of America helped make this Fair a great success. Chuck in now a Radio Merit Badge Councilor and between Paul and Chuck we are now prepared to support the BSA for this merit badge anywhere in San Diego at any time.

Also helping to support KJ6WJZ (Mike), KI6UPY (Joseph), (Joseph) who is also Making a welcome was WA6MHZ President who was not only onsite, but contacts with some while he was en



Chuck and Paul were KJ6TKU (Eric), and KI6TTF our club Treasurer. appearance too (Pat) the club Vice of great assistance on the air making of the Scouts route to the site.

There are hopes that be able to participate in other educational events only the near future, but on benefits to Amateur Radio can not only the HAM community, other people and organizations that will be able to gain a better understanding and direct access to some very knowledgeable young Scouts.

the ARCEC will more training and with the BSA in not a continuing basis. The be of great importance to but to the Scouts, and many

How can you become a Ham or advance to General or Extra

**Just visit the folks at San Diego Ham Radio Classes and find out
Send an information request to J. Goldberg (AF6GM) at email
sandiegohamclasses@me.com**

Or visit the below links for more info on upcoming classes

San Diego Ham Radio Classes Web Site Address

http://jsg.org/sandiegohamclasses/San_Diego_Amateur_Radio_Classes/Home.html

San Diego Ham Radio Classes Facebook Address

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/San-Diego-Ham-Radio-Classes/173757259339607>

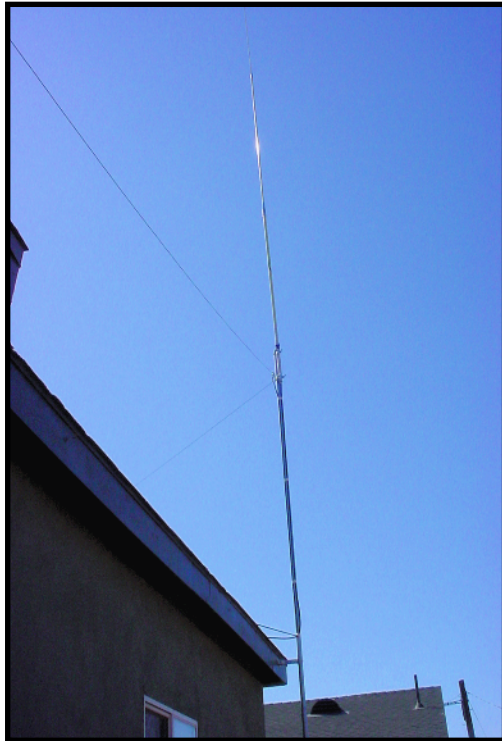
Next scheduled class is for Technician and will be held on the 8th of December in the National City area. Contact SDHRC for more details.

Continued from Page #2

The 2 meter antennas now consist of a Diamond x50a dual band and a Diamond a144s5r yagi. To date, have had EXCELLENT reports on their operation. The yagi is in a fixed direction for the time being, but I may later add a rotor to it. They currently sit at 29 feet from the top of the vertical to ground level. I used a 4 inch wall stand off and put the base into a 1 foot deep hole. Very solid mount overall.



The weather station and CCTV PTZ camera are located on the right side corner of the garage, and are currently mounted at about 20 feet from the ground. I do plan on adding another 10 feet of height as that will hopefully allow me to see the ocean, Silver Strand, and San Diego Bay. The camera does allow me to pan 360 degrees around, and has up to a 27 power zoom, so with luck will be able to see the waves breaking at Imperial Beach, and maybe even see the pier too. As I said though, just have to raise the system up another 10 feet or so. Lots of work now though as the cables are already ran into the house across the roof and tied off. Oh well, whatchagonna do!



As for the HF antennas, they will again consist of a Solorcon A-99 vertical tuned for 10 meters, and a G5RV Jr. dipole which is good for 10 meters, 15 meters, 20 meters, and 40 meters. Both will be hitting my MFJ-969 antenna tuner prior to going to the Icom IC-7000 transceiver. This combo worked pretty good prior to the move, and I look forward to seeing how it works here on the coast. I plan on mounting the dipole again in an inverted "V", but it will also be placed with the radials at 90 degrees from each other. They will be in a South and an East orientation, and suspended from the pole near the bottom U-bolt mount of the vertical antenna. I will report on how well this all works out in next months Counterpoise. These antennas will be mounted atop a 20 foot mast giving me an overall height of about 35 feet total. Wish me luck!!!!

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon Club Nets

Day	Time	Name	Description	Net Control	Repeater
Sunday					
Monday	7:00 pm	Donut Net	Trivia & general interest questions	KI6RRN Axel	ARCEC
Tuesday	8:00 pm	Wide Open Net	Almost anything goes with Frito	N6WKB Frito	ARCEC
Wednesday	8:00 pm	WAMO Net	WAMO contacts, roundtable, buy-sell, swap, 73 round	KJ6IOB Daniel	ARCEC
Thursday	7:00 pm	Fritos 10 Meter Net	Starts on 10M and moves to 2M	N6WKB Frito	ARCEC
Friday					
Saturday	8:00 pm	WAMO Net	Roundtable, sell-buy-swap, club news, 73 round	KJ6BFT Margaret KJ6GOO Heather	ARCEC

Work All Members Once



Current ARCEC Officers and Directors

Officers

Position	Email	Call	Name
President	president@wa6bgs.us	AD6UK	Nick Prodanovich
Vice President	vicepresident@wa6bgs.us	WA6MHZ	Pat Bunsold
Secretary	secretary@wa6bgs.us	KJ6BYF	Paul Thompson
Treasurer	treasurer@wa6bgs.us	KI6TTF	Joseph Matterson

Board of Directors

Position	Email	Call	Name
Director 1	director1@wa6bgs.us	KI6GRN	Dave Ward
Director 2	director2@wa6bgs.us	KJ6LAT	Quinn Lacey
Director 3	director3@wa6bgs.us	W1CTM	Raymond Boisvert
Director 4	director4@wa6bgs.us	KJ6IOB	Daniel Warner
Director 5	director5@wa6bgs.us		
Director 6	director6@wa6bgs.us	KG6VVO	Steve St.Martin

Ascensions - Non-Elected Director

Position	Email	Call	Name
Past President	Past President	W6BTS	Dave Santoro

Contact Information:

Web Site: www.wa6bgs.us

President: president@wa6bgs.us

Vice President: vicepresident@wa6bgs.us

Secretary: secretary@wa6bgs.us

Treasurer: treasurer@wa6bgs.us

Counterpoise: counterpoise@wa6bgs.us

Club Phone number is **619-663-6011**

Monthly Amateur Radio License Exam

1st Saturday of the Month Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, Inc.

El Cajon First Lutheran Church, 867 South Lincoln, El Cajon, CA 92020 9 :00 AM

Contact Gereld N. Madsen - Jerry KI6PLH, (619) 766-9177 (walk-ins welcome).

How to find the exam site

From the West: Take I-8 East, Exit El Cajon Blvd/Chase Ave. At the end of the ramp, turn right onto Chase Avenue. Go about 1.5 miles to South Lincoln Avenue. Lincoln will be 1 block after Avocado Drive. Turn left on South Lincoln. We are 2 blocks up on the right.

From the East: Take I-8 West, Exit Mollison Avenue. Go South on Mollison about 2 miles to Washington. Turn right on Washington. Go 1 block and turn left on South Lincoln. We are 1 block up on the left.

Important!! Get your free FRN ID from the FCC

Be sure to visit the FCC web site and obtain your FRN identification prior to coming to take your exam. You will need it to show you have registered with the FCC, and so that we can send your exam results to them for processing and licensing.

Santee Swap Meet First Saturday of each month

Santee Electronics Swap Meet is the first Saturday of each month at Santee Drive-In east side of Highway 67, South of Riverford Rd. in Santee, CA Starting at 6:30 AM, talk-in 146.520, Buyers \$1.00 Find out more information at EL Cajon ARC website at www.WA6BGS.US. Club stall is open for buyers/sellers from 6:30 am until 9 am. Please feel free to bring your own Ham related items to sell at the Club stall. Just remember that you must stay with your items until they sell, or take them with you when you leave,. Many thanks to N6JOJ (Tom) for his fine work.

Notice of Disclaimer

All companies mentioned in the Counterpoise are done as a courtesy and a convenience to both the membership and the company. No compensation has been solicited and none has been accepted, and no endorsement has been made.

Joe - KJ6VMX - Counterpoise Editor

San Diego Ham Radio Classes

by Joe Bennett – KJ6VMX

I read about an upcoming class that proposed to teach a Technician level Ham the information needed to take and pass the General class exam. Since I was interested in becoming a General, with all the added privileges that it would bring, to say I was intrigued would be an understatement. I had been procrastinating for months in preparing and taking the exam. Oh don't get me wrong, I had taken the practice exam a number of times on www.eham.com with mixed results. My typical scores ranged from the 80% level to a disappointing 50%. This did little to inspire my confidence in taking the exam from one of the many VEC certified locations that are available each month from various organizations, including our own ARCEC the first Saturday of each month (see information on page 6). This class offering though peaked my interest as it would allow me to do a days study, and then be able to take the exam that same day. Was I willing to devote a Saturday to getting my General ticket? I felt that I could at least start the registration process and see what happened, so I did. First thing I needed to do was to send an email to J. Goldberg (AF6GM) at sandiegohamclasses@me.com requesting that I be added to the upcoming class list scheduled for October 20th. I received back a reply within 24 hours that included a download package of files and a request for my FRN FCC number and call sign. As a Technician license holder, I knew that my FRN was right on my official FCC license, just below my name and address on the framable form. I responded to the email with the requested information and quickly received an email indicating that I had been assigned roster #20 out of 30 available seats. Okay, now I was locked it, committed so to speak. Going to have to prepare now, pre-study, actually do some

work to get ready. Right, didn't happen. Procrastination again set in. Oh I did print out the information provided in the email that would be needed to take along on exam day. I did take one more practice exam on eHam, and got 16 of 35 correct, and felt that feeling of doom begin to creep in, but fought it off. Oh it still lurked in the background as exam day approached, but I tried to remain optimistic about finally becoming a General. I received several more emails as reminders and that provided the final location of the exam, the Chula Vista Yacht Club. What a great place it turned out to be for the exam location. Plenty of parking (once the gate was opened), lots of tables and chairs, a projection screen, and even coffee and donuts too. What more could one ask for? There where lots of people to meet when I went into the facility. J., Rob, Bob, and many others who would be providing the actual instruction as well as other support in preparation for the exam later in the day. I chose a seat down front near the speaker podium, figured I would be able to see and hear better, and I needed all the advantages I could get if I was going to pass the exam. I had signed in at the entry table, perusing the tri-fold flyers and other information provided to help new Hams in becoming more familiar with the who, what, and why of the hobby. I sat down and got my papers in order. These included a full printout of the General exam question pool, an ARRL band chart, an Ohm's Law wheel, a reprint of the schematic diagram from the question pool, and several other sheets providing information on what to study in preparation for the exam. At their request I also had on hand a reference copy of my FCC license, which included my FRN, a picture ID (my

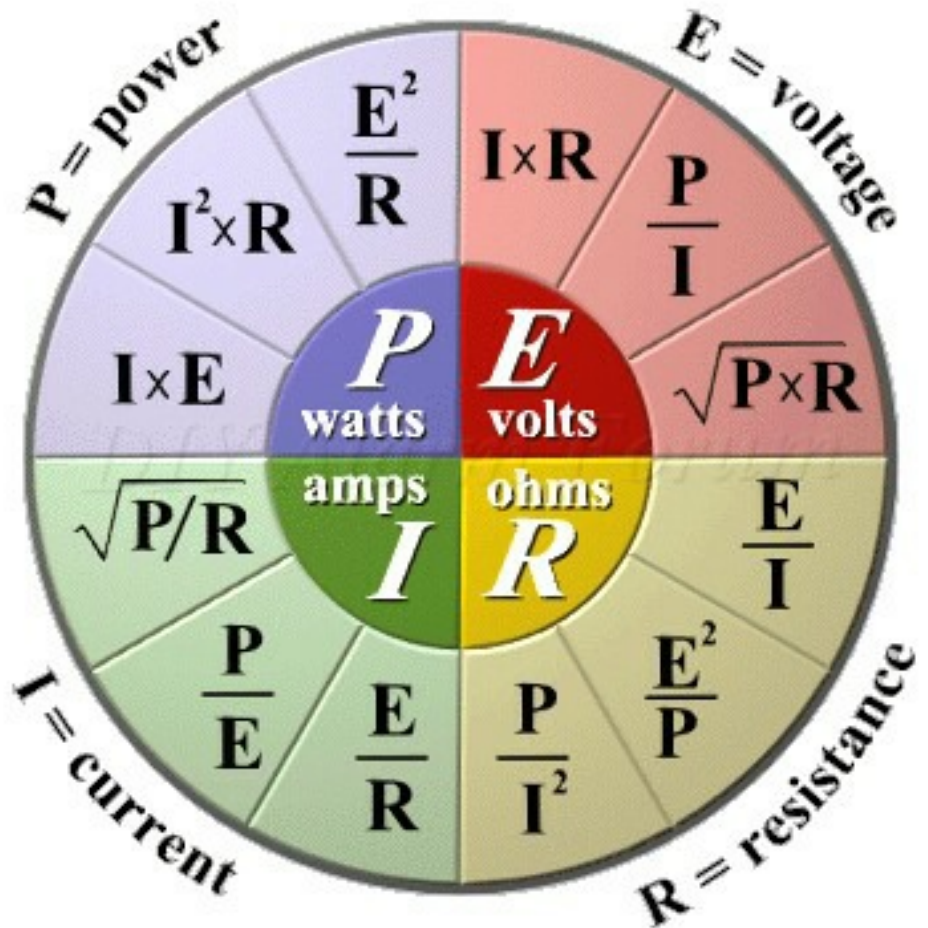
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CDL in my case), and a crisp \$5.00 bill for the exam. Class started promptly at 8 a.m. with a discussion of what would take place during the training session. We would be going over the ENTIRE question pool for the General exam. Over 400 questions. Fortunately the correct answers were the only ones shown on the list, none of the typical filler/trick/distracter answers to confuse things, thank goodness for that mercy. The questions were read out loud in a round table manner by each of the attendees to the class. The questions were also briefly discussed by the training team, with hints on how to remember the answer provided. These turned out to be a great help later on. Each hour a short break was provided, and sure made a big difference in keeping the class attentive and alert. Around noon time a longer lunch break provided just the much needed recharge for the mind and body. The group (both students and instructors) were friendly and serious about learning the material, and made for a very pleasant atmosphere during the class as well as the breaks. The class worked its way through the question pool at a good pace, and I sat there wondering how I was going to remember it all when exam time came. It seemed overwhelming, but then we finally reached the very last question, which as it turned out I was in line to read. Whew, what a task it was, but we had finally reached the end of the class. But wait, now we were going to take a practice exam to see how we might do when we take the actual exam later. Okay, bring it on I thought. But inside I feared that I would perform at a low level as I had in my pre-class testing. Taking the practice exam though actually eased my concerns, the questions did not seem as mysterious and difficult as they had before. I found that I actually enjoyed the practice exam, and ended up only missing 4 out of the 35 questions, not too bad. My confidence was boosted tremendously, bring on the actual exam, I'm ready world. By this time the VE's were ready for us, and began calling us up to register and provide our paperwork and registration fee, in alphabetical order. I was #3 in the order, and was efficiently processed through the line and given my exam booklet, answer sheet and scratch paper. I returned to my seat and began the exam. My fears and concerns quickly faded as I read the questions and marked my answers. The questions seemed familiar, almost like little friends I knew. I slowly worked my way through the 35, then reviewed them all once again before raising my hand for a proctor to retrieve my exam for grading. Then I sat and waited until J. Goldberg finally walked over and motioned for me to come to the side of the room. My heart skipped a beat, did I do that badly on the exam? But wait, I saw a CSCE form in his hand, I PASSED!! I had felt pretty confident after the practice exam, and even the actual exam left me feeling good about the results, but not until he handed me the CSCE form, and a hardy handshake too, did I actually feel a wave of relief, and happiness wash over me. Was the class worthwhile? Would I recommend it to others? Would I do it again? A resounding YES to all those questions. I do feel that it was a vital part of my successful completion of the exam process, and at least for myself, got me out of the procrastination cycle and into the successful completion of the tasks needed to pass the General exam. Thanks to the staff of San Diego Ham Radio Classes for their dedicated efforts in helping the Ham community as well as those who are just beginning their journeys into the Ham world. You guys take being an Elmer to new levels. For more information on how you can either advance to the next level of Amateur Radio, or begin as a Technician, be sure to see the contact information at the beginning of this article or located on another page of the Counterpoise. Thanks again guys, from KJ6VMX/AG.

Ohm's Law Wheel

To the right is the full formula wheel to calculate the various parameters for D.C. electrical circuits. To use it, simply choose the quadrant corresponding to the variable you want to calculate, then select the segment corresponding to the variables that you know the values of. You do need to know at least two of the four parameters, and then you can figure out the remaining two by using the wheel. The wheel is very helpful for those taking the various Amateur Radio exams, and is well worth learning for that use alone. Happy learning!!!!



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National City, CA 91950
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San Diego, CA 92123
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Sun 12 pm - 4 pm



The **AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF EL CAJON**^{Inc.}

WA6BGS

Post Office Box Fifty, El Cajon California 92022

Founded 1960 ~ Incorporated 1976

Nominations for Officers and Board of Directors 2012/2013 Election Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Please enter your phone number, call sign and member number (WAMO number). Nominations without this qualifying information will not be considered valid and will be discarded. All information will be verified before a nomination goes on the ballot for election.

**Required information*

Your Name: * _____

E-Mail Address: * _____

FCC Call Sign (You) * _____

Your Member or WAMO number/Phone Number: * _____

Nomination for President, Call Sign or Name: _____

Nomination for Vice President, Call Sign or Name: _____

Nomination for Secretary, Call Sign or Name: _____

Nomination for Treasurer, Call Sign or Name: _____

Nominations for Board of Directors (six available positions):

1. Call Sign or Name: _____
2. Call Sign or Name: _____
3. Call Sign or Name: _____
4. Call Sign or Name: _____
5. Call Sign or Name: _____
6. Call Sign or Name: _____

Nominate the club member(s) of your choice for the positions listed for 2013.

Requirements:

- 1 - Persons nominated must be members of the club, in good standing, at the time of nomination.
- 2 - Person making the nomination must be a current member of the club, in good standing, at the time of nomination.

Please submit completed forms at any club meeting in October or November 2012, or scan and send to any club officer or Board of Director member for consideration.

Counterpoise Submissions Requested

The Counterpoise is always looking for story ideas and submissions, pictures, and upcoming news articles. You can submit by sending your content to counterpoise@wa6bgs.us in WORD or PDF format. Photos can be sent in JPG, GIF, or most any other popular formats as well. Deadline is typically 7 days from the Members meeting, usually held on the second Thursday of each month. All members are urged to help out the Counterpoise and keep it active and entertaining. Hope to see your submissions soon!!

Joe - KJ6VMX - Counterpoise Editor

MURPHYS SURPLUS WAREHOUSE

LOCATED AT 401 N. JOHNSON AVE:

EL CAJON, CA. 92020

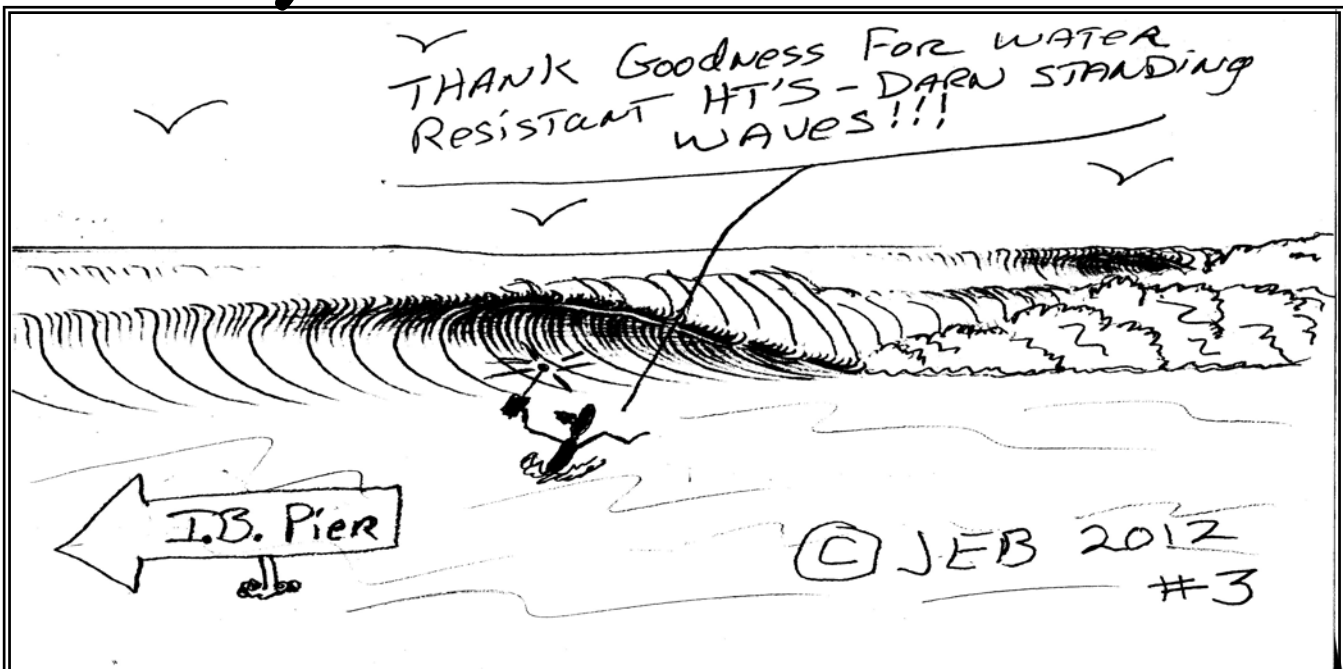
(NEAR SAN DIEGO) 619 444 7717

FAX 444 6750 EMAIL murphy@cts.com

HOURS MONDAY THRU SATURDAY

9 AM TO 5

Harvey Hairbuckle-Ham Extroidinaire



2013 Arizona State Convention

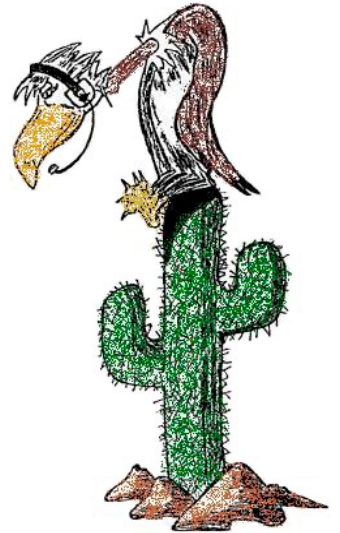
9th Annual

Yuma Hamfest

Yuma, Arizona

Feb. 15 & 16, 2013

Yuma County Fairgrounds
2520 East 32nd Street, Yuma, Arizona



www.yumahamfest.org

Check the Website for Additional Information
and a Current Schedule of Activities and Seminars

<p>Gates Open for Camping Thursday, 2 pm Vendor Setup Friday, 7 am - Noon</p>	<p>Event Hours Friday, Noon - 5 pm Saturday, 8 am - 5 pm</p>	<p>Buzzard BBQ & Grand Prize Drawing Saturday Night 6:00 - 8:00 pm</p>
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Vendors & Exhibitors
Consignment Sales
License Testing
Hourly Door Prizes
On-site RV Camping
Famous Buzzard BBQ
ARRL Speaker
\$5.00 Admission

Tailgating (Swap Meet)
Full Seminar Schedule
DXCC Card Checking
Incredible Grand Prizes
Emergency Preparedness
Admission Prize
Hospitality Area
Antenna Clinic & T-Hunt

Hamfest Talk-In Frequency: 146.840 (-) PL 88.5 Hz

Email Contact: info@yumahamfest.org



We are proud to have the Amateur Radio
Council of Arizona (ARCA) as a sponsor of
our event.

The Yuma Hamfest is an American Radio
Relay League (ARRL) sanctioned event.



Presented by the Yuma Amateur Radio Hamfest Organization



The **AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF EL CAJON** Inc.

WA6BGS

Post Office Box Fifty, El Cajon California 92022

Founded 1960 ~ Incorporated 1976

Please fill out this form and see the options at the bottom for Submitting options

Date of Application: _____

Amount Paid: \$ _____ ☐ Cash or ☐ Check Check #: _____

Membership Type: ☐ Individual (\$20) ☐ Family (\$35)
 Membership Status: ☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Returning Member
 Call Sign: _____ First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ WAMO # (If renewing or returning): _____

ARRL Member: ☐ Yes ☐ No
 License Class: ☐ Technician ☐ General ☐ Extra ☐ Other:
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ PO Box: _____

Email ID: _____ Phone: _____

Would you like a member badge? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Add Additional Members Here (Family Package):

First Name	Last Name	Call Sign	License Class	Wamo #	Badge
					<input type="radio"/>
					<input type="radio"/>
					<input type="radio"/>
					<input type="radio"/>
					<input type="radio"/>

Submitting This Form

To submit this form mail it to P.O. Box 50 El Cajon, 92022

-OR-

Bring to the next club meeting or go to www.wa6bgs.us and join on line (click on Club info / Join)

Cash Payments - Get a Receipt from the Club Treasurer. Make all checks payable to AMATEUR RADIO CLUB of EL CAJON, Incorporated. Receipts for payments by check will be sent by email or regular mail by the Club Treasurer.

Members with FCC Call Signs are Full Members with voting privileges, Members without FCC Call Signs are Associate members without voting privileges

YOUR DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE: Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, Inc. is a 501(c)(7) Corporation. Donations are NOT tax Deductable.